

NSC BRIEFING

15 January 1959

LAOS

- I. Premier Phoui Sananikone passed critical assembly test on 14 January in drive to form effective anti-Commie govt.**
 - A. Assembly voted (28 to 16; 3 abstentions): to approve Phoui's reform program; to give him authority to appoint new govt; and to adjourn for 12 months.**
 - B. Phoui thinking of 12 man cabinet--four young reformers, two military and remainder conservative politicians.**
 - C. Chief of Staff Ouane and other top military figures reluctantly going along with Phoui**
- II. Communist North Vietnam, fearing Phoui suppression of domestic Commies, has exerted military and psychological pressure on Laos.**
 - A. North Vietnam Premier Phan Van Dong has charged Laos with violations of North Vietnamese frontiers and has moved two North Vietnamese companies into disputed area.**
 - B. Laos not attempting to expel troops through military action.**
 - C. Poles and Premier Souphannouvong, Chief of Laos' Communist front party, have urged Indians to reactivate International Control Commission in Laos, charging US interference, violation Geneva agreement, etc.**
 - 1. Souphannouvong said to believe ICC's only means to bloc US from carrying out its arms in Laos.**
 - D. Prince probably fearful of US plan to assist directly in training Lao army, which has deteriorated badly under weak govts and greatly reduced French training group.**
 - 1. French cool toward sharing training function.**

25 YEAR
RE-REVIEW

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